



Our Lenten Journey

An Invitation to Lent 2021

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving." This advice, given by famous German physicist, Albert Einstein, to his son Eduard, in a letter dated 05 February 1930, is still relevant and useful, ninety years later.

Isn't it somewhat disheartening that we will journey through a second Lenten season while battling a pandemic? However, intertwined with our personal challenges and sometimes dire circumstances, is the fact that the world still rotates on its axis and the many other human-made problems we read about, hear of and see in communities near and far, continue unabated. This has the effect of compelling us to reflect on God and God's movement in this world.

Too often, we hear friends and acquaintances speaking about 'end times', of seeing doomsday, with the understanding that it will all end, while others are seeking answers from God or just hoping to hear some words of hope and encouragement. The writer of Psalm 57, embodies these moments of anxiety, in verse 1:

"Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, until the destroying storms pass by."

We yearn for troubled moments to pass but we cannot dictate when they will. But, what we as Christians can do, is practise the balance of hope in times of trial.

This is the aim of the St. Jude's Writers, who for the past thirteen years, during the Lenten season, have walked the same familiar paths and performed the same age-old rituals and yet, found new meaning in and from them. They have sought to offer hope through the inspired words of God, balanced with the everyday lived experiences.

And so, I join the St. Jude's Writers in inviting you to pursue a deeper relationship with God and with each other, as a Christian community. We also seek to engage our children and young people and to encourage them to explore the mystery of their faith, as we are aware that they too need to be inspired by hope in Jesus Christ, especially amid these trying times. Additionally, we hope to inspire the family, so that as a people, we can become more resilient, compassionate and innovative, and better able to cope with the challenging times ahead.

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16 February 2021



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My Fellow Readers and Pilgrims

May the Grace of Christ our Saviour and the Father's boundless love, with the Holy Spirit's favour, rest upon us all from above.

I am delighted, and indeed, honoured, to be invited to share with you on the occasion of the publication of this ministry tool. I have long admired the movers of this publication and assure you all of my continued prayers for the growth of this ministry.

As a strong advocate of the ministry of the un-ordained, I welcome this publication and, like many others, look forward to its offering to the spiritual and religious landscape of our beloved Isle.

We share with you against the backdrop of the scourge of the corona virus COVID-19 pandemic, against the socio-economic, political and, yes, the religious fallout the world over. So many have lost so much. Pain, hurt and grief have enveloped both large and small nation states. We are forced to look again at the fact that, as human beings, we are, "frail children of dust and feeble as frail..." We are forced again to look to our God who will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ.

Therefore, as we approach our Lord and Friend again, this Lent, I pray that the words of St. Paul, writing to the Church at Rome (Romans 8:37 & 38) will give us strength; "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." We have to embrace and hold fast to the rock of our salvation and be persuaded, "that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

As we approach the Mercy Seat of our God, again this Lent, I pray that we do so in penitence and faith, but more so, with the confidence expressed by the hymn-writer in the first verse of Hymn #482 (CPWI Hymnal), "...where Jesus answers prayer; there humbly fall before His feet, for none can perish there."

May our spirits truly long for the Divine Guest, our Lord Jesus Christ and may we find rest in Him and be warmed in the sunshine of His blessed love.

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